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PP RUEHLMC
DE RUEHMU #0836 2371843
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4485
INFO RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 000836

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN AND DRL
STATE PASS TO USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [NU](#)
SUBJ: FSLN YOUTH GROUPS COUNTER "OPPOSITION" YOUTH PROTESTS

REF: Managua 794

11. (SBU) On the morning of August 17, Managua and other cities in Nicaragua awoke to find that, during the night, activists had demonstrated against the Ortega government. The acts of protest included hanging banners, burning tires, and hanging of straw dummies dressed in Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) clothing. The youth groups, self-identified as "Sandinistas that think differently," protested issues ranging from the repression of freedom of expression to budgetary cuts in health and education. They acted at night, they said, to avoid confrontation with FSLN supporters.

12. (SBU) In response, the FSLN sent its people to the streets. The FSLN-aligned news website "El 19" reported that FSLN youth would occupy Managua's rotundas and intersections throughout the night and into the early morning to "celebrate" the 30th anniversary of the FSLN Revolution. However, as the week progressed, the FSLN youth became more militant, and by August 21 they were dressed in camouflage, armed with sticks and machetes, and had gathered mounds of rocks to use as "artillery."

13. (SBU) Local media reported that the FSLN youth gathered each night at midnight in the party's youth secretariat's building with the objective of "neutralizing" any signs of protest against the government. As in the past, the government's supporters fired homemade mortar rockets in order to intimidate those who might protest against the government. FSLN members of Managua's city council assisted the government's supporters in patrolling the streets and taking down banners that criticized the Ortega government. [Note: We have noticed new pro-Ortega graffiti throughout Managua. End Note]

14. (SBU) In a separate, but related incident, on the evening of August 22, FSLN youth in Leon attacked Sandinista Renovation Movement (MRS) youth. The MRS members had gathered in Leon for the party's training of future leaders. According to news reports, the MRS members were at a local shop for dinner when two pick-up trucks with FSLN flags arrived. The militants from the vehicles, dressed in camouflage and carrying mortars, attacked the MRS youth. The MRS stated it would work with the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) to file charges.

15. (SBU) Comment: The response to the dissident youth movement, like the earlier disruption of the march by the "Coordinadora Civil" civil society group (reftel), underscores the FSLN's absolute insistence that the streets belong to them alone.
CALLAHAN